



PATENTS  
112056-0004P1  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In Re The Application of: )  
Samuel M. Cramer et al. )  
Serial No.: 09/933,883 )  
Filed: August 20, 2001 )  
For: NEGOTIATED GRACEFUL )  
TAKEOVER IN A NODE )  
CLUSTER )

Examiner: Manoskey, Joseph D.

Art Unit: 2113

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February 1, 2005

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
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Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

This Preliminary Amendment is filed with a Request for Continued Examination  
and an Information Disclosure Statement.